as a follow-up to that, twelve more antiquities have been seized from the smugglers.

(c)Three persons have been arrested who are still in judicial custody.

(d) Steps have been taken by the Archaeological Survey of India in consultation with the law enforcing agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation, Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the State Government Police to check thefts of antiquities and their smuggling by stepping up vigilance and intensifying checking at the customs exit-channels as well as enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

Armed guards as well as private security agencies have also been deployed at select monuments/museums.

Rural tourism

†753. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE.be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to send proposals for development of rural tourism during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the number of proposals received in this regard alongwith the names of States from whom they have been received?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has introduced Rural Tourism Scheme in the current financial year and has requested all the State Governments/UT Administrations to furnish one proposal for promotion of rural tourism during the current financial year.

(b) Based on the preliminary proposals received from the State Governments the Department of Tourism so far has identified the following ten Rural Tourism Projects during the year 2002-03:

1. Pochampalli (Andhra Pradesh)
2. Kokkare Bellur (Karnataka)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

3. Hatwa Village (Madhya Pradesh)

4. Siju and Sarutgre Villages (Meghalaya)

5. Mopungchupit (Nagaland)

6. Raghurajpur (Orissa)

7. Kamla Sagar (Tripura)

8. Jageshwar (Uttaranchal)

9. Chiraigaon (Uttar Pradesh) 10.

Shantiniketan (West Bengal)

Use of heavy earth moving machine JCB in protected areas of Red Fort

754. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India has deployed a heavy earth moving machine *viz.* JCB in the protected areas of Red Fort;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the use of JCB for conservation work flouts basic conservation rules laid down in Venice Charter for International Conservation and followed the world over; and

(d) since when the use of the machinery has been stopped?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The JCB was deployed only to lift the manually excavated debris from the moat surrounding the fortification wall of the Red Fort, Delhi. It was not used for digging.

The Venice Charter does not lay down any such norms which forbid the use of modern machines for conserving monuments.

Development of **cultural and spiritual tourism**

†755. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have developed/proposed to develop cultural and spiritual tourism in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.